

ANALYSIS ON THE PHENOMENON OF POPULATION'S MIGRATION IN ROMANIA

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Abstract

In this paper the authors analyze the migratory movement of population from Romania. Demographic dynamics of the last decade confirms that Romania's population declined. The demographic developments in Romania have mainly economic reasons (examples : migration, low birth rate, rural - urban migration). The comparative analysis of statistical data obtained in the population censuses of 2002 and 2011 shows that the most of the Romanian communities have lost population due to a negative natural and migratory growth. From the situation of the absent population (migrants) at the time of the population census, between 2002 and 2011 is that the number of those who have left home for longer periods has increased exponentially. Most of those absents from their home at the time of the last population census were living abroad. Romania needs a realistic vision of economic and social development in the coming decades. In defining and naming a strategy for sustainable development, population is the central element and from this perspective one of the strategy component should be to stop the demographic skidding. Simultaneously with the decrease of the total population, Romania records a demographic aging trend. The causes are both negative natural growth (low birth rate combined with high mortality) and also the migration phenomena. Projections show that these trends will persist on the medium and long term.

Key words: aging, birth rate, declining, migration, population

INTRODUCTION

On July 1, 2012 the Romanian population was 21,316,420 inhabitants, of which 10.4 million men (48.7 %) and 10.9 million women (51.3 %).

The negative values of natural growth, combined with those of external migration balance, caused the population to fall between the period 1 July 2009 - 1 July 2012, with 153.5 thousand people.

The average age of the population increased from 39.5 years (1 July 2009) to 40.0 years (1 January 2012), the average age that characterizes countries with "adult" population. Female population with an average age of 41.5 years was also on January 1, 2012 older than the male one with 3.0 years.

Birth rate, the first component of population movement, met a decreased trend. Given that, in short and medium term, there cannot be expected that mortality to significantly contribute at reducing demographic decline in Romania, the birth rate remains the only component over which there can be actioned

with effective results. Recovery birth rate can have positive effects of long term. In 2012, the number of live newborns (201.1 thousand) decreased by 21.3 compared to 2009.

Mortality remained relatively high in Romania. In 2012, 255.5 thousand people died, with 1.7 thousand people less than in 2009.

Between fertility and birth rate there is a direct connection, the intensity of fertility causing the birth rate. The evolution of fertility is influenced, besides demographic behavioral factors, by some changes in the number and structure of fertile female contingent too.

The image of fertility evolution of Romania's population in recent decades is one of a continuing downward trend, which began in the early years after World War II, has increased in the period of 1957-1966 and has decreased alarming in the past five years.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To achieve this scientific paper, the authors studied the following statistical documents relating to: Romanian population, population

censuses, migration statistics, monographs demographic and population registers. This research was performed using methods, procedures and techniques of the traditional and modern. In the category of traditional scientific approach are based on the first analysis and synthesis with which they have been using other methods or processes geographical: observation and geographical description.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Demographic dynamics of the last decade confirms that Romania's population declined. Comparative analysis of statistical data obtained in the population censuses of 2002 and 2011 shows that the biggest part of Romanian communities have lost population due to a negative natural growth and migration.

From the quantification of the situation of the absents (migrants) at the moment when the census was performed is that, between 2002 and 2011 the number of those who left home for longer periods has increased exponentially.

Most part of those absent from home at the time of the last census were living abroad.

In the early '90s in Romania has been a dramatic increase of internal migration, from 8.6 ‰ in 1985 to 33.9 ‰ in 1990.

In the next 10 years, from 1991 to 2000, the volume of territorial mobility has decreased considerably compared to 1990, remaining between 10 and 13 residence changes to 1,000 residents.

Starting with 2001, the flow of immigration intensifies, often exceeding 16 ‰ (during economic growth periods) and emerginf of global crisis worldwide caused a decrease in population mobility (only 15.4 ‰ in 2009), while the extension of economic downturn has caused among population a growth of the desire to change residence, thus leading to 21.4 ‰ in 2010, the highest value of internal migration rate after 1990.

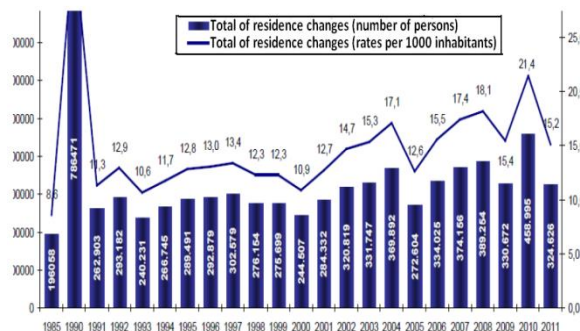


Fig. 1. Total of residence changes during the period 1985-2011

In 1991 over half (50.3%) of the internal migration from rural to urban flow back over the next nine years (until 2000) the share of this type of migration has decreased considerably from year to year until value of 19.5% in 2000, while the share of urban to rural flows increase from 10.1% in 1991 to 33.8% in 2000. Since 2001 the population movement from rural to urban areas and vice versa, from urban to rural, remains approximately constant, representing around 20% and 30% of total migration flows.

In 1990, there was a massive migration of Romania population towards abroad. Thus, in 1990, chose to emigrate from Romania 96,929 persons, respectively 4 persons per 1,000 citizens decided to change their residence abroad. In the next four years, the number of immigrants decreases, reaching to year 1994 where the number of people who left to be below 18,000, respectively below 1 immigrant per 1,000 residents, while in 1995 the number of people who emigrated from Romania increased to over 25,000 immigrants, respectively to 1.13 immigrants per 1,000 inhabitants.

There should be noted that the year 1990 remains the benchmark in terms of emigration phenomenon spreading, because so far the value has not been exceeded. Therefore, in the last 10 years, overall, the number of people decided to immigrate to another country is becoming smaller oscillating around the value of 10,000 people respectively 0.5 immigrants per 1,000 inhabitants.

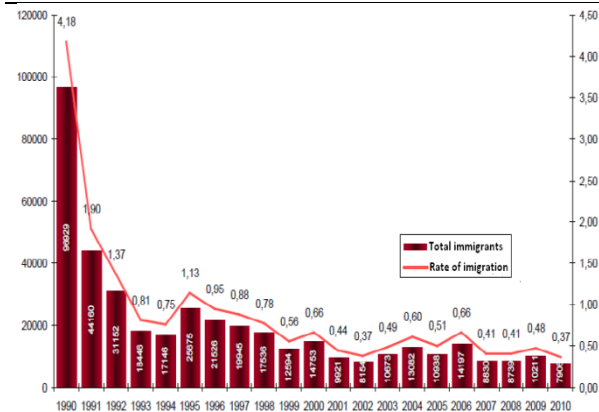


Fig. 2 Evolution of population emigration from Romania and migration rate

The main destination countries of immigrants from Romania, during the period 1990-2011, were: Germany, USA, Spain, Canada and Italy, but the evolution of immigrants flow by country of destination is different. Thus, if at the beginning of the period, the trend was more towards the U.S.A and Canada, and currently the share of European countries (Germany, Italy and Spain) and those from overseas (Canada and USA) reached about the same value.

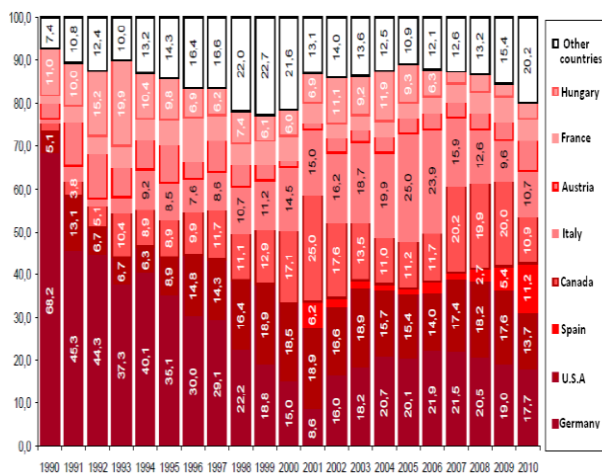


Fig. 3. The main destination countries of immigrants from Romania

Immediately after the year 1990, in Romania, the flow of immigration was almost nonexistent, the number of people who have decided to live legally in Romania oscillating around 1,500 people respectively 0.05 immigrants per 1,000 inhabitants.

After the year 1995, the flow of immigration is increasing gradually for about six years, at

reaching in 2001 to be over 10,000 immigrants, representing about 0.5 people per 1,000 inhabitants. During the next period, the evolution of immigrants number is oscillating, so between 2002 and 2005 the number of immigrants arrived in Romania falls below 4,000 people, and after 2005, this number gradually increases, surpassing again the value of 10,000 immigrants. Since 2008, the evolution trend of immigrants number is downward, and now this represent 0.33 persons per 1,000 inhabitants.

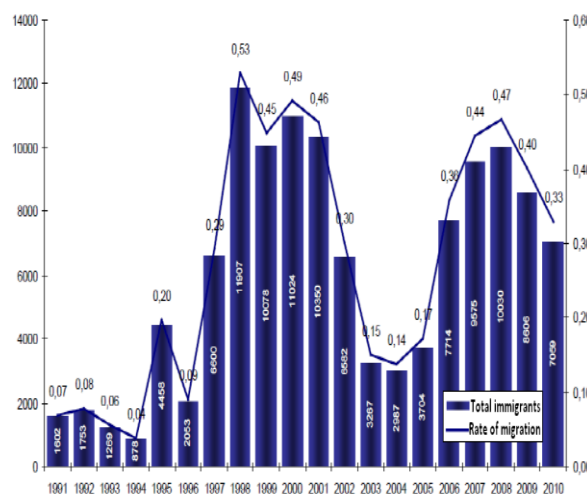


Fig. 4. Evolution of population emigration from Romania and migration rate

CONCLUSIONS

Romania needs a realistic vision of its economic and social development in the coming decades. In defining the structure of a strategy for sustainable development, population is the core element and from this perspective one of the components of strategy should be to stop demographic crisis.

The structure by age of the population bears the imprint typical to a demographic aging process, marked mainly by declining of birth rate, which caused the absolute and relative reduction of young population (0-14 years) and of increasing the share of the elderly population (60 years and over).

The average age of the population increased from 39.5 years (1 July 2009) to 40.0 years (1 January 2012), the average age that

characterizes countries with "adult" population.

In conclusion, if the changes that have occurred in the profile and socio-economic structure of Romania in the period immediately following 1989 have caused an increase of territorial mobility among the population, especially from rural areas to urban areas, after the year 1996 significant changes occur in the evolution migration flows by changing the direction of internal migration, rural-urban flow being the main direction of migration.

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